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**MESSAGE**

In connection with Serial No. 10/554,164:  
Amendment (in response to November 17, 2006 Office Action).

Due Date: February 20, 2007

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Akira KUROME, et al.

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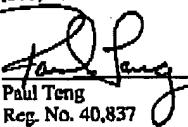
Group Art Unit: 2859

FEB 20 2007

Date Filed: April 22, 2004

Examiner: Megann E. Vaughn

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2006 in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims beginning on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper